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The next morning Mr. Browne called on Major Henderson. "I have just received these, and I thought I should perhaps like to look at them," he said, producing a packet of periodicals.

Major Henderson was glad to have himself of the offer, as current literature was rather difficult to procure in so out-of-the-way a place.

After a little further conversation Mr. Browne was asked if he would care to join the club and receive his morning paper.

Again he would be only too pleased. When the trio had gone some distance, Major Anderson, wishing to enjoy a quiet half-hour, suggested that he should sit down and rest a little, while Maude conducted Mr. Browne to a spot close by where a good view of Snowden could be obtained.

"I would faint, like you, rest a while," replied Mr. Browne, "but as the day is so unusually clear I feel I must make an effort to take advantage of it, especially as this young lady has so kindly consented to act as my guide."

And so Mr. Browne, with Maude walking patiently beside him.

As soon as the trees had hidden the lovers, she half laughing and half crying, stroked his long gray beard.

"Oh, Jack, whatever made you come like this? What do you want to do?"

"This, my sweetest," and the bold lover drew from his pocket a marriage license and wedding ring. Half playfully the gallant Lieutenant removed Maude's glove and slipped on the ring. "What a dear little hand it looks!" he cried rapturously, "and how happy I shall be when I call it dear owner my sweet little wife!"

A slight sound from behind them, and looking up they beheld Major Henderson not a hundred yards off.

Maude would have been grateful to the earth had it opened at that moment to receive her, but as it showed no signs of doing so, she disengaged herself from Mr. Browne's embrace and hastily handed him back his ring.

Mr. Browne, to the occasion, although he had grave misgivings, as he looked toward Major Henderson. "Were you listening to join us? You see we haven't got far yet," he said, looking at the best of times, and in such scenes as this one feels forced to pause frequently to look around."

"I expected to meet you coming back," explained the Major, "but I was looking for you in that direction, indicating a quiet path more to the right. I was quite surprised when I saw you coming toward me."

With what feelings of relief did the lovers listen to Mr. Browne's innocent remarks. At their early dinner the Major drew from his pocket a letter which he had received by the morning train. It was from London by the name of "Excuse me, my dear," to his niece, he hastily glanced at the contents. "I must leave for London by the 11 o'clock train. This letter is of the utmost importance. How stupid of me to have delayed reading it!"

"Am I to accompany you, uncle?" asked Maude faintly.

"No, no, my dear; there's no need for you to do that. I shall be back here by the evening of the following day."

The Major was very preoccupied until dinner was over, but Maude had also much food for reflection, silence was agreeable to both.

"I wonder if I could do anything for Mr. Browne while he is in town?" queried the Major. "My dear," turning to Maude, "just write a little note to him asking him to step over for a minute. You know we had promised to show him the way to Fairy Glen this afternoon. I don't feel inclined for any more walking my dear, but there is no reason why you shouldn't accompany him, if you are not tired and he is agreeable to the suggestion."

Maude's note quickly brought Browne, and the lovers were soon on their way to Fairy Glen.

"My darling, we are in luck's way," exclaimed Jack. "Your uncle's absence will make matters as simple as A B C. I shall have to-morrow to make the necessary arrangements. We can be married the following morning, and by the time your uncle returns he will be finding me miles away from here."

Maude acquiesced rather reluctantly. She loved Jack dearly; but still she had some misgivings about deceiving her uncle, who, with the exception of the unaccountable obstinacy he had shown toward her lover, had always been ready to humor her. Jack, however, drew such a glowing picture of the happiness in store for them, and declared with so much confidence Major Henderson's anger would not last more than three weeks when the irrepressible step was taken, that Maude was much comforted.

When they returned Major Henderson pressed Mr. Browne to spend the evening with them. He was a man of letters, and the Major asked Maude if she would mind packing his portmanteau for him.

"I have laid out the things I wish to take, my dear. You will find them in my trunk."

Maude was delighted to have an opportunity of doing at last a little kindly act.

Directly she left the room, the Major began to feel lonely, and a length got up and paced the room. Suddenly turning to Mr. Browne, he said: "Comparative stranger as you are to me, I feel as if I must tell you the nature of the business which is calling me to London so unexpectedly. The blow has fallen so unexpectedly that to speak of it would be an immense relief."

The stranger was all sympathetic attention in a moment.

"Mr. Browne," continued the Major, excitedly, "this time yesterday I believed that poor girl up stairs to be the mistress of a fairly large fortune. To-day—if the information I received this morning is correct—I know her to be penniless. And that is not all; the greater part, if not the whole, of my income is lost also."

So sympathetic was Mr. Browne that he begged to know all the details. These, however, the Major was unable to furnish; in fact, he could explain nothing satisfactory, so great was the state of excitement into which he had worked himself.

"Hush!" he said, as he heard Maude approaching. "Not a word to her. I wouldn't dream of a peaceful mind for worlds, poor girl, until I am certain how the matter stands."

The next day, about an hour after her uncle had left for London, Maude received the following pencilled note from Browne:

"My own Darling: I am the most unhappy do that ever lived. I passed a wretched night, and this morning I am too ill to leave my bed. To-day, I am disabled from going to the office, for the event that is to make me the happiest man in England, has been postponed. I am so sorry, and if he can but catch me up it may get me too late send a book back to account for getting a letter from your young man."

"This," continued the Major, "is the letter which I have chosen rather to enjoy the scenery while walking distant in preference to travelling about by rail or coach. My niece has been a little upset lately, so we came here to recruit her health."

Maude flushed up indignantly. To speak of the cruel blow which had been dealt her as if it were a mere nothing!

"The young lady is looking so fresh and charming that I think she must be on the high road to recovery. This with a stiff old-fashioned how to Maude was about to say I trusted I might derive as much benefit from the change, only I fear that it is too much to expect. Age cannot hope to compete with youth, my dear."

"With your permission," suggested Major Henderson, "my niece and I will accompany you to the falls. They are within a quarter of an hour's walk from here, and I can give you a few hints about the neighborhood as we go along."

Mr. Browne would only be too pleased. Maude walked on by her uncle's side experiencing a mixture of joy and alarm.

She was so delighted to hear that dear voice again; so fearful lest her lover's stratagem should be discovered!

Mr. Browne noticed her agitation, and was careful to divert Major Henderson's attention from his niece, in case her confusion should betray the secret. The trio had to cross a stream by means of stepping stones. The stranger offered to assist Maude. Managing to keep his back to Major Henderson Mr. Browne, alias Lieutenant Mapleson, tenderly pressed Maude's folding hand and with a word of reassurance in his blue eyes whispered: "Be careful, my darling, and all will be well with us."

"Are you really better, dear Jack?" she asked anxiously.

"Yes, my dear. Quite cured. Good-by," and he was gone.

That her lover's leave-taking was a little abrupt did strike Maude; she was, however, far too confused by the turn affairs had taken to attach much importance to the first circumstance.

When she returned to her uncle he seemed wonderfully better, and at supper he talked cheerfully of his future.

Maude passed another sleepless night. She did not so much mind the terrible loss she had sustained on her own account; she was bitterly disappointed that she could not do all she had promised her dear Jack. She determined, however, to be the most loving and economical wife possible. At all events her uncle would not be the worse for a splurge being necessary now, and there was much comfort in that reflection. Perhaps after a while he would be able to have a proper wedding, of course it would have to be a very quiet one. How much more than longer he than running away and deceiving her uncle, who had always been so kind to her.

When she came down to breakfast the next morning she was looking pale and a little worn after her two sleepless nights. The Major, however, seemed to have succeeded in throwing off his grief in quite a surprising manner, and was in almost his usual spirits.

"Have you heard how Mr. Browne is this morning?" Maude ventured to ask the landlord's daughter.

"Why, Miss, he paid up for the week and went off by the mail train last night, declaring he was sure the place didn't suit him."

Poor Maude! The blow did indeed fall on her with crushing force.

"Dear me, rather sudden!" she shall miss the old gentleman—Miss Maude!" she said, as soon as the uncle and niece were left together. Her anxiety, stress on the adjective, and there was a suspicion of fun in his eyes. It was, however, no laughing matter to Maude; she, too, felt the loss of her lover's part, burst into an uncontrollable fit of weeping.

"Poor child! poor child!" said the Major, compassionately; "it's a sharp lesson for you to learn, but it is better to bear a little pain now than to suffer the remainder of your life, as would most probably have been your fate if I had not paid that sounder out in his own coin."

The threatened loss of fortune was all a fabrication, Major Henderson having gone no nearer to London than the top room in Honey-suckle cottage.

The truth was the Major had discovered what was going on when he came upon the lovers so unexpectedly. He then devised the scheme, which he afterwards carried out so successfully, in order to test the sincerity of Lieutenant Mapleson's attachment to Maude. Major Henderson had, of course, been obliged to take the landlady into his confidence, and she, fully entering into the spirit of the thing, had suggested the Major's river, it still retains its natural color. Another young man with whom I am acquainted carries a cigar case made of negro skin, and a stylish small and brown leather appearing on one side in relief. One of the best known surgeons in this country, who resides in this city, has a beautiful instrument case entirely covered with leather made from an African's skin. It is a society lady of this city wears a beautiful pair of dark slippers, the remarkable lustrousness of whose leather invariably excites the admiration of her friends when they see them. The young doctor who presented them to her recently returned from an extended foreign tour, and he told her that the last purchased them from a Turkish hunter's face, who did not know what sort of leather they were made of, but he supposed it was the skin of some wild animal. As a matter of fact, the skin came from a negro cavalier which he also gave a circular letter, and in reply under date of July 1, 1887, he says: "I used the skin as stated and was very much cured of rheumatism by its use." During the intervening six years there had been no recurrence of the pain. Also a letter from Mr. H. Converse of the Warren (Mass.) Herald dated July 1, 1887, as follows: In response to yours of June 10, I would say that in 1880 my wife had a severe attack of rheumatism in shoulder and arm, so that she could not raise her hand or head. A few applications of St. Jacobs Oil cured her permanently, and she has had no return of it. Another case is that of Mr. R. B. Kyle, Lower Hill, Appomattox county, Va., who writes, November, 1887: "Was afflicted for several years with rheumatism, and given worse all the time. Eminent physician gave no relief; had spasms, and was not expected to live. I purchased a bottle of St. Jacobs Oil. The first application relieved, he second removed the pain, continued use cured him. I have used it on my wife and children with success. These are proofs of the perfection of the remedy, and taken in connection with the medicines performed in office cases, it has no equal."

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